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Twenty-ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2000 (2011), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 31 July 2012, and requested that I provide a midterm report on the situation on the ground and the implementation of the resolution no later than 31 December 2011. The report covers major developments since my report of 24 June 2011 (S/2011/387), including the holding of the legislative elections.

II. Security situation

2. During the reporting period, President Alassane Ouattara and his Government took initiatives to consolidate the security situation in the country following the violent crisis that ensued after the presidential run-off election in November 2010. Further steps were taken towards the reconstitution of security and rule-of-law institutions, their progressive deployment across the country and the transfer of law and order tasks to the relevant law enforcement agencies. Cooperation and coordination between the national security institutions and UNOCI was also enhanced, particularly with respect to the security arrangement for the legislative elections.

3. In spite of those positive developments and the substantial improvement since the crisis, the security situation in Abidjan and the western part of the country remained fragile. Large numbers of weapons are still present throughout the country, and there are an increasing number of disgruntled ex-combatants as a result of the slow progress in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform. In addition, a number of elements that remain loyal to former President Laurent Gbagbo continue to have access to arms, while cross-border movements of armed groups and weapons are a direct security threat to Côte d'Ivoire and its neighbours, particularly Liberia. As a result, during the reporting period, a number of security incidents took place throughout the country, involving armed elements as well as clashes between armed civilians.

4. In western Côte d'Ivoire, the presence of mercenaries, militias, self-defence groups and dozos (traditional hunters), as well as large numbers of arms, remains a

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source of insecurity, with a significant impact on the civilian population, resulting in a number of security incidents in that area. On 16 September 2011, a group of some 15 armed elements — believed to be Ivorian militia members based in Liberia — attacked the border villages of Zriglo and Nigré in western Côte d'Ivoire, resulting in the death of at least 21 persons, including one member of the Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire (FRCI), and several wounded. A total of 92 houses were burned down during reprisal attacks by local populations, which also led to the displacement of people. On 18 December, five people were killed when a group of armed youths clashed with FRCI in Vavoua. A high incidence of armed robbery and racketeering by unidentified armed elements prompted several protests by local leaders and civil society representatives, including trade and transport unions. A series of other violent intercommunal clashes in various villages in areas in the west were reported in the months of October, November and December, resulting in the death of at least 12 persons, with many wounded and a number of houses destroyed.

5. In Abidjan as well, a large number of weapons remain in circulation and the majority of the 12,000 prisoners who escaped from custody during the crisis are still at large. That situation has contributed to relatively high levels of crime and security incidents involving armed elements. Incidents involving exchange of gunfire among FRCI elements in Abidjan on 19 August and in the Agban gendarmerie camp on 15 October indicate that tensions exist among the security forces and that those forces could become a threat if their shortcomings (see para. 33) are not addressed. In the lead-up to the legislative elections, which took place on 11 December, five persons were injured on 19 November when FRCI elements clashed with a group of Front populaire ivoirien (FPI) members in Bonoua near Abidjan, and one person was injured on 20 November when a group of armed individuals interrupted a meeting of approximately 100 FPI members in Abidjan.

III. Political developments

6. During the reporting period, political stakeholders across the spectrum focused on positioning themselves for the legislative elections. Following a meeting on 11 September, the Forces nouvelles announced the participation of their representatives in the legislative elections under the umbrella of the Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP) alliance, which includes President Ouattara's Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) party and former President Henri Konan Bédié's Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) party. In spite of an initial agreement between the RDR and the PDCI to submit candidates under the umbrella of the RHDP, both parties registered candidates separately in most of the 205 electoral districts. The Forces nouvelles fielded most of its candidates under the RDR banner, including Prime Minister Guillaume Soro.

7. While many leaders of FPI continued in exile, among those who remained in Côte d'Ivoire diverging views emerged regarding the future direction of the party. As a result, on 10 July Mamadou Koulibaly resigned as interim FPI President and created his own party, Liberté et démocratie pour la République (LIDER). A separate party, the Cap Unir pour la démocratie et le développement (Cap-UDD), was created by Gervais Coulibaly, who was the spokesperson of former President Gbagbo, on 12 September. Both parties participated in the legislative elections. On 23 July, FPI appointed Miaka Ouretto as its new interim President and called on the Government to release former President Gbagbo and his associates from detention

as a condition for national reconciliation and for FPI participation in the legislative elections. Party representatives reiterated the demand on several occasions, including during a rally in Abidjan on 30 October, which was attended by some 700 FPI supporters. Four parties from the opposition registered candidates for the legislative elections, and although FPI maintained its position of boycotting the elections, some FPI representatives participated as independent candidates.

IV. Elections

8. President Ouattara and his Government made considerable efforts to ensure that the legislative elections were held as scheduled on 11 December, as well as to create a political environment conducive to their peaceful conduct. The President also announced that local elections would be held in 2012. In addition, the authorities undertook important steps to ensure that the elections were inclusive, by encouraging all parties, particularly the former ruling FPI party and parties from the opposition coalition, the Congrès national de la résistance pour la démocratie (CNRD), to participate in the electoral process.

9. In the light of the changed political context, on 14 August President Ouattara appointed 14 (out of 31) members of the Independent Electoral Commission in keeping with the formula established under the Pretoria Agreement. On 21 September, FPI suspended its participation in the Commission, expressing concerns about what they perceived as an imbalanced composition of the Commission. That concern was echoed by the Union démocratique et citoyenne (UDCY), although it continued to participate in the Commission. The Government met with representatives of the opposition coalition to discuss such concerns and to encourage their participation in the elections.

10. From the time of his arrival on 24 October 2011, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire worked actively with the Government and all political stakeholders, including the Facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso, to help to ensure that the legislative elections would proceed in a manner that contributed to securing lasting stability for Côte d'Ivoire. As part of a concerted effort to promote an inclusive political process and support the creation of a political environment conducive to the elections, the Special Representative held regular meetings with political parties and independent candidates, including those from the opposition, and urged them to participate in the elections and adhere to the Code of Good Conduct signed in April 2008 under the auspices of the Secretary-General. During the meetings, the Special Representative stressed the need to guarantee freedom of the press and access to State media by all candidates.

11. With respect to the legal framework for the elections, on 16 September the President signed a decree increasing the number of seats in the National Assembly from 225 to 255. On 28 September the Council of Ministers increased the number of electoral districts from 174 to 205 and determined the boundaries of the electoral districts and the allocation of seats. The Independent Electoral Commission announced on 19 October that it would use the voter list from the 2010 presidential elections, which had been certified by the Special Representative and included 5,725,721 voters.

12. The registration of candidates to participate in the legislative elections took place from 17 October to 31 October. The Front populaire ivoirien, the former ruling party, maintained its demands for changes to the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission, the release of detainees associated with the former regime and the disbursement of funds for political parties as conditions for their participation in the elections. In an effort to address the concerns of FPI, on 24 October, an additional position of a fifth vice-president was created in the Commission, which was offered to FPI, and funds were released in early December. Furthermore, at the request of the Government and in consultation with political parties, the Independent Electoral Commission reopened the candidate registration period on 3 November for an additional day until 4 November to encourage opposition parties to participate. After validation by the Constitutional Council, the Independent Electoral Commission published the final list of candidates on 30 November. It comprised 1,160 candidates representing 34 political parties, including 3 from LIDER and the major opposition coalition, CNRD, as well as 450 independent candidates. In spite of an announcement that the parties in the CNRD coalition might withdraw their candidacies in reaction to the transfer of former President Gbagbo to The Hague, they confirmed their participation on 5 December.

13. In the light of the damage caused during the crisis to many of the Commission's offices throughout the country, in August the Commission conducted an inventory of its offices and electoral supplies, which formed the basis of the election budget of approximately $26 million. Of that amount, $13 million was funded by the Government. Contributions from the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), China, France, Japan, and the United States of America provided funds to close the gap. The Independent Electoral Commission was generally successful in overcoming technical and logistical challenges in the weeks leading up to the elections to meet the tight schedule, with support provided by UNOCI and the United Nations country team at the same level as that provided for the presidential elections in 2010. From 24 to 28 November, UNOCI delivered some 200 tons of non-sensitive electoral material, including ballot boxes, polling booths and electoral kits, to all departments countrywide. The Commission then transported the material, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services, to the level of the sous-prefectures and communes; from there, the items were distributed to the 19,968 polling stations. The ballot papers were printed in Abidjan; distribution began on 7 December and was completed on election day. Some 13,000 commissioners and 60,000 polling agents were trained from 3 to 9 December, with support from UNDP, the European Union, the Carter Center, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the National Democratic Institute.

14. Campaigning took place in a generally calm atmosphere from 3 to 9 December, although cases of intimidation and tensions were reported across the country. Most significantly, on 7 December, in Grand Lahou, three people were killed and three wounded after an armed guard assigned to protect an electoral meeting misused a rocket propelled grenade. Subsequently, 25 FRCI elements were placed under detention. Concerns were also expressed regarding armed elements providing protection to candidates, including some members of the Government. In response, the Government publicly condemned the involvement of FRCI and other

armed elements, including militias, in the electoral campaign and stated that they would be disciplined.

15. The Forces républicaines de Côte d'Ivoire, the police, the gendarmerie, UNOCI and the French Licorne force worked jointly to develop security arrangements for the legislative elections. Some 25,000 personnel from FRCI, the police and the gendarmerie were deployed across the country to provide security for the elections. Eleven command centres were established to ensure coordination. While the police and gendarmerie with FRCI support were responsible for securing polling operations, UNOCI focused on providing support in the most sensitive areas, including western Côte d'Ivoire, while Licorne intensified patrols in Abidjan. UNOCI also strengthened its civilian presence in many areas around the country to proactively assist in responding to potential challenges. Those security arrangements were effectively implemented on polling day. UNOCI also contributed to protection arrangements for some opposition candidates.

16. In addition, under inter-mission cooperation arrangements, the Security Council authorized on 27 November the temporary redeployment from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to UNOCI of one infantry company; three formed police unit platoons with supporting elements; two military utility helicopters; and three armed helicopters to reinforce UNOCI during the legislative elections. The temporary deployment of one infantry company to Guiglo in the west and the three formed police unit platoons to Abidjan was completed on 5 December, while the aviation unit completed its redeployment to Yamoussoukro on 10 December.

17. On 11 December, the elections were held in a generally calm and peaceful manner. Participation averaged close to 37 per cent of registered voters countrywide, although there were disparities between districts. The elections were observed by representatives of the candidates, approximately 3,000 national observers and political party representatives, and 150 international observers. The African Union, ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Carter Center fielded international observer missions. UNOCI and the United Nations country team were present with some 300 monitoring teams throughout the country.

18. The polling stations opened as scheduled across the country with some minor delays, which were quickly addressed. The elections also ended as scheduled, with the exception of one electoral district. The counting of the ballots began immediately after closing, and was witnessed by representatives of the candidates, as well as by national and international observers.

19. No major security incidents were reported, although there were reports of unidentified men removing by force polling materials from a polling station or en route to a polling station, some isolated acts of intimidation and obstruction of the vote, mainly in western Côte d'Ivoire, and candidates being supported by armed elements. Overall, the Ivorian security agencies kept a low profile, remained at the required distance from polling stations and provided effective security cover in collaboration with UNOCI. International observers positively assessed both the voting and the performance of the national security personnel.

20. The Independent Electoral Commission began releasing provisional results as soon as they became available, and announced on 16 December the full slate of

provisional results, according to which RDR party of President Ouattara obtained 127 seats and PDCI party of former President Bédié 77 seats. Independent candidates secured 35 seats in total, while the remaining seats went to smaller parties and coalitions.

21. In keeping with paragraph 6 of resolution 1765 (2007), the Special Representative will have to certify that all stages of the electoral process provided all the necessary guarantees for the holding of open, free, fair and transparent legislative elections in accordance with international standards. The certification will be based on the framework consisting of five criteria that was developed in consultation with the stakeholders and applied in the presidential elections, as follows: (a) the security environment; (b) the inclusiveness of the process; (c) equitable access to State media; (d) the voter lists; and (e) the process leading to the results. The legislative elections for each of the 205 electoral districts will be certified on the basis of the following: the assessment reports by the United Nations monitoring teams; close consultations with national and international observers, and copies of the result sheets, which the Independent Electoral Commission will provide to UNOCI; and a review of appeals filed by candidates. The Special Representative will certify whether the results were determined through a transparent process and are accepted by all, or are challenged peacefully through the appropriate channels, after the proclamation of the final results by the Constitutional Council. As part of the certification process, the Special Representative welcomed the peaceful conduct of the electoral campaign and of the voting in statements issued on 9 and 11 December, respectively.

V. National reconciliation and transitional justice

22. President Ouattara took initiatives to restore normalcy in Côte d'Ivoire, including the appointment of a new President of the Constitutional Council on 25 July, as well as initial steps to promote national reconciliation. The transfer of former President Gbagbo from Côte d'Ivoire to the International Criminal Court in The Hague marked an important development in the country, dominating the political discourse and provoking mixed reactions among Ivorians. While the present Government has indicted a number of individuals associated with the former regime, it has been slow in addressing violations committed by its own forces, which has been perceived as winner's justice by parts of the population.

23. President Ouattara has continued to emphasize the importance of national reconciliation to the restoration of lasting peace and stability in the country. He and his Government have called on refugees as well as members of FPI and the former Forces de défense et de sécurité (FDS) to return to the country, in the spirit of reconciliation, including during official visits to Ghana in July, September and October.

24. While the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation was officially inaugurated on 28 September, following the nomination of 11 members of the Commission on 5 September and the appointment of the President of the Commission, Charles Konan Banny, earlier this year, its work has yet to start in earnest. At the request of the Commission's President, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights deployed a team to Côte d'Ivoire from 1 to 6 August to assess the needs of the Commission. UNOCI supports the Commission

in developing a programme of work, while the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund has allocated $1 million to joint United Nations efforts in support of the Commission.

25. The Government has taken a series of judicial measures to address past human rights abuses, particularly those committed during the recent crisis. So far, 47 representatives of former President Gbagbo's regime have been indicted for crimes committed since 28 November 2010. International arrest warrants were also issued against those who left the country, including the leader of the Young Patriots, Charles Blé Goudé. Former President Gbagbo and his wife, Simone Gbagbo, were indicted for economic crimes. Additionally, 68 former FDS, police and gendarmerie elements, including the commanders of the former Republican Guard and the Centre de commandement des opérations de sécurité (CECOS), were indicted. On 9 and 10 November, a total of 20 associates of the former regime were provisionally released from detention.

26. On 3 October, the International Criminal Court announced that Pre-Trial Chamber III had granted the Prosecutor's request to commence an investigation into alleged crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, which had been committed in Côte d'Ivoire since 28 November 2010. On 23 November 2011, the Court issued a sealed arrest warrant for former President Laurent Gbagbo for individual criminal responsibility, as an indirect co-perpetrator, on four counts of crimes against humanity, namely murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution and other inhuman acts, committed between 16 December 2010 and 12 April 2011 by FDS, reinforced by pro-Gbagbo militia and mercenaries, in Abidjan and elsewhere in the country. In the late hours of 29 November, former President Gbagbo was transferred from Korhogo to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

27. Reactions in Côte d'Ivoire to his arrest and transfer were mixed, with some segments of the population welcoming the development as an important step towards ending impunity, while others condemned it for political or procedural reasons. On 30 November, FPI issued a statement claiming that President Gbagbo's extradition was illegal, and that consequently the party would withdraw from the national reconciliation process.

VI. Mandate implementation

A. Stabilizing the security situation

28. UNOCI continued to support the efforts of the national security forces to stabilize the country. In Abidjan and elsewhere, UNOCI increased joint patrols with national security forces and the French Licorne forces. In the west, UNOCI reinforced its presence in the border area with the establishment of three new camps in Tabou, Taï and Zouan Hounien and the expansion of existing camps in Toulépleu, Issia, Gagnoa, Sinfra and Bouaflé. UNOCI also increased its presence in eastern Côte d'Ivoire to monitor cross-border movements from Ghana, while adjusting its deployment in Abidjan, which had been augmented during the post-election crisis. In keeping with its mandate to protect civilians, UNOCI refined its system of mobile and static patrols to enhance its quick reaction capacity and enhanced its visible presence in areas of concern, including approximately 36 camps for internally

displaced persons and the routes used by refugees and displaced persons to return to their communities.

29. In close coordination with UNMIL, UNOCI has taken measures to address cross-border challenges along the border with Liberia. Air and ground patrols are being conducted on both sides of the border to observe, monitor and deter illegal activities. The two missions have also enhanced the sharing of information and coordination with national security personnel. In addition, UNOCI conducted a series of joint assessments with UNMIL in June, October and November to review the situation in the border area, including with respect to Ivorian ex-combatants present in refugee camps or host communities in Liberia, and developed recommendations on ways to address the situation.

30. UNOCI assisted the Government in collecting weapons through ad hoc disarmament initiatives, targeting those posing the greatest risk to stabilization. Since June, 828 weapons and 220,265 rounds of ammunition have been collected from some 1,300 former combatants in 29 operations in a number of locations, including Abidjan, Daloa, Duékoué, Taï, Tabou and Toulépleu. In addition, UNDP and UNOCI are designing a community disarmament and violence reduction programme aimed at supporting communities in the reconciliation process and revitalizing economic activity.

31. The Mission has also provided assistance to reduce the threat posed by unexploded ordnance in Abidjan as a result of the recent crisis, destroying 5,978 rounds of ammunitions and providing advice on physical security and stockpile management. In addition UNOCI assisted in the refurbishment of armories, the segregation of some 20 tons of unsafely stored ammunition and the provision of training for FRCI and gendarmerie members in clearing unexploded ordnances.

B. Reconstitution and reform of the security and rule of law institutions

32. Little progress was made during the reporting period in developing a national framework for security sector reform in spite of steps taken to initiate the process. The Government, with the support of UNOCI, held a pre-seminar on security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in Abidjan from 21 to 23 September in preparation for a national seminar to be held in 2012. One outcome of the pre-seminar was an initial capacity and needs assessment, conducted by eight working groups, which was presented to the Office of the Prime Minister on 7 December. The Mission also deployed a senior security sector reform adviser to the Prime Minister, as requested by the Government, and held weekly coordination meetings with the many international partners interested in supporting security sector reform.

33. The appointment of the new heads of the armed forces, police and gendarmerie on 7 July and the filling of additional key positions on 3 August were important steps towards reconstituting those institutions. While the commanders for the newly created Special Forces and Presidential Guard units were appointed, the development of the units is ongoing. The new leadership is taking measures to ensure that the force, which numbers approximately 40,000, will become reunified and professional, and to deploy them across the country, although logistical constraints will need to be addressed in that regard. However, FRCI continues to

face challenges in meeting its own basic needs and in dealing with issues related to command and control and discipline.

Police and gendarmerie

34. Over 70 per cent of the police and gendarmerie premises occupied by FRCI were handed back, and over 90 per cent of police and gendarmerie personnel resumed duty, although the operational capacities of those entities remain low. Out of a total of 189 police and gendarmerie units in need of rehabilitation as a result of damage suffered during the crisis, 54 were rehabilitated in Abidjan and western Côte d'Ivoire. Additional rehabilitation projects amounting to $2.76 million are being implemented. Funding for those activities is provided by, inter alia, the Peacebuilding Fund and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Quick Impact Projects.

35. UNOCI conducted train-the-trainer sessions and seminars in the areas of law enforcement, human rights, intelligence-gathering, gender-based violence, professional ethics and security for the elections. UNOCI has also been involved in the implementation of projects for the provision of training in forensics and anti-racketeering, and for the modernization of the Police Academy in Abidjan, which are financed by international donors.

36. Those efforts notwithstanding, overall progress in reconstructing the police and gendarmerie has been slow. At the request of the Government, from 22 August to 9 September, UNOCI and the national police conducted a joint audit of police services throughout the country. The audit revealed important challenges that need to be addressed, including restructuring and professionalizing the national police and increasing its operational ability, which are under consideration by the Directorate-General of the National Police.

Justice and corrections

37. With UNOCI support, 32 (out of 34) courts and 10 (out of 33) prisons that had ceased to function during the recent crisis were reopened, including the main prison in Abidjan. A total of 75 magistrates for the Court of Appeals and 195 magistrates for regional and local courts were appointed and deployed across the country. However, only eight courts are currently processing criminal cases owing to the absence of judicial police and the inadequate functioning of corrections facilities.

38. The Mission provided assistance to the Ivorian authorities for the development of a national justice sector strategy and helped to implement justice reform projects financed by international partners. The Mission also supported the Government in developing prisoner data management systems and building the capacity of judicial and corrections personnel.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants

39. Progress with respect to developing a new national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme has been slow, although a decree is under preparation to establish a national commission on disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration, which would be responsible for developing and implementing a national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. The Government has estimated that the caseload would be

approximately 40,000 to 60,000 combatants, comprising three main target groups: (a) elements that are part of official armed groups, including the police, gendarmerie, former Republican Guard, FRCI and CECOS; (b) members of militias, dozos, self-defence groups and Young Patriots; and (c) foreign armed elements in Côte d'Ivoire and Ivorian combatants abroad. So far, 2,000 out of an initial caseload of 20,000 combatants from the former Forces nouvelles and FDS — who joined FRCI during the crisis — have been profiled and selected for integration into FRCI. The remaining 18,000 would participate in a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme; of that group, 2,500 have been regrouped in a camp in Abidjan awaiting demobilization, and three additional camps are expected to be constructed.

40. UNOCI continues to provide advice to the national authorities and to support capacity-building for Government personnel involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, including during a workshop on reinsertion and reintegration activities in Abidjan from 3 to 4 November, and to conduct sensitization and public awareness activities.

C. Redeployment of State administration and restoration of State authority

41. Progress was registered in the redeployment of State administration and restoration of State authority throughout the country. Most civil servants have returned to work although lack of resources and weak capacities of law enforcement agencies continue to hamper their effectiveness. The préfets are progressively restoring their authority, including with regard to their public order responsibilities. The Peacebuilding Fund has allocated $5 million to assist in the restoration of State authority and enhance the capacity of the corps préfectoral, police and gendarmerie in the most affected areas, especially the west.

42. On 11 September, the Forces nouvelles announced its decision to dismantle its tax collection structure, La Centrale. The Government deployed customs personnel along the borders with Burkina Faso, Mali and Liberia, where legal tax collection has begun, although illegal taxation of goods continued in some areas. UNOCI deployed eight customs officers to support their efforts.

43. On 28 September, the Government adopted a decree on the reform of the administrative and territorial organization of the country, increasing the number of districts and regions of the country. UNDP is assisting the Government in developing a comprehensive public administration reform programme and is working on strengthening local administration and the provision of services. The Peacebuilding Fund has allocated $3 million for a joint UNHCR-United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) programme to scale up the registration of births and assist persons without documentation, steps that are critical to obtaining social services and citizenship documents.

D. Human rights

44. The human rights situation in the country remains of concern, as there are continued reports of human rights violations committed by armed elements,

including such elements from FRCI. Since June, at least 123 cases of extrajudicial execution, 132 cases of torture and ill-treatment, 220 cases of arbitrary arrest and illegal detention, 63 cases of rape and 32 cases of female genital mutilation have been documented.

45. The Government has taken a number of initiatives to fight impunity and promote accountability, including through the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms. On 24 June, a special inquiry cell was created to conduct preliminary investigations into human rights violations committed during the recent crisis. On 20 July, President Ouattara established a national commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations committed between 31 October 2010 and 15 May 2011, which is to present recommendations within six months.

46. UNOCI has strengthened its monitoring, investigation and reporting capacity and conducted a number of special investigations, particularly in western Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI also provided human rights training to FRCI and civil society representatives. In addition, UNOCI regularly assesses the conditions of detention of associates of the former regime.

47. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, mandated by the Human Rights Council to assist the Government and relevant actors in the follow-up of the recommendations of the International Commission of Inquiry, visited Côte d'Ivoire from 14 to 25 November and from 7 to 13 December. In that context, he engaged with the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire and a wide range of national and international actors involved in the reconciliation process. The authorities reiterated their commitment to implementing recommendations to improve the overall human rights situation in the country, including in the context of the legislative elections. The Independent Expert is expected to submit a report on his findings to the Human Rights Council in March 2012.

Child protection

48. Most children associated with armed groups during the crisis have been released, although their reintegration remains a challenge. During the reporting period, at least 13 children were killed, mostly by unidentified armed elements, and some 50 cases of sexual violence against children were reported, of which eight were committed by elements of armed groups. To enhance monitoring and reporting on children affected by armed conflict, the United Nations country task force, initially established in 2006, was reactivated on 22 September. UNOCI also provided training on child protection to uniformed personnel and civil society representatives.

Sexual violence

49. During the period under review, UNOCI documented 63 cases of sexual violence, of which 32 were perpetrated by armed elements, including elements from FRCI. Pursuant to resolution 1960 (2000), UNOCI enhanced its monitoring and reporting capacity and established a special accountability system.

50. During the visit to Côte d'Ivoire of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for sexual violence in conflict, Margot Wallström, from 21 to

26 November, she encouraged the Government to translate its promise to fight impunity for crimes of sexual violence into concrete action and to do more to reintegrate survivors of sexual violence into society. She also called on people in positions of influence to speak up against the use of sexual violence as a tool of political intimidation.

E. Role of the media

51. On 1 August, President Ouattara appointed a new Director-General of the State broadcaster Radiodiffusion Télévision Ivoirienne (RTI), and RTI resumed broadcasting on 9 August for the first time since April. While reporting by RTI largely adhered to professional norms, some private media continued to air inflammatory statements. The National Press Council sanctioned at least six cases of violation of the rules of ethics by private newspapers. Three journalists of the daily opposition newspaper *Notre Voie*, arrested on 24 November for incitement to crime and defamation, were tried and acquitted on 6 December. On 9 December, the High Authority for Audiovisual Communication expressed general satisfaction with the balanced treatment of candidates by RTI and local radio stations during the electoral campaign.

52. UNOCI continued to monitor closely the Ivorian media and provide assistance to media and regulatory bodies, including through the provision of training. UNOCI's broadcaster, ONUCI-FM, was used to contribute to the overall effort to create a peaceful environment, including for the legislative elections.

F. Humanitarian situation

53. Since the post-elections crisis, more than 160,000 Ivorian refugees remain in neighbouring countries, mainly Liberia and Ghana. In addition, approximately 100,000 Ivorians are still internally displaced, of which some 15 per cent live in camps. In respect of the modalities for the voluntary return of Ivorian refugees, four tripartite agreements were signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Côte d'Ivoire and the respective Governments: namely, Liberia, on 11 August; Ghana, 6 October; Togo, 15 November; and Guinea, 1 December.

54. About 130,000 refugees and over 500,000 internally displaced persons have returned to their areas of origin since the end of the fighting in April. Those who remain displaced cite security concerns, loss of property and the absence of return assistance as factors preventing them from returning to their areas of origin. UNHCR facilitates the voluntary return of refugees, including through the provision of transport and assistance. UNOCI, together with the humanitarian community, supported the Government in developing a humanitarian return strategy and ways to provide interim solutions for those who are not yet able to return. The African Union donated $100,000 to UNHCR in November to rehabilitate for displaced persons the houses destroyed during the crisis.

G. Economic situation

55. The economy is showing some resilience following the recent crisis. Government revenues are rising, although they are not expected to reach the pre-crisis level before 2013. As a result of the combined budget support from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Government of France, as well as forbearance by external creditors, lost revenue has largely been replaced, permitting normal or slightly above-normal levels of spending. The Government paid salary arrears from external budget aid, which was critical to jump-start the economy following the reopening of banks in April.

56. The recovery is being further accelerated by higher commodity prices, coupled with higher cocoa exports as a result of the sale of stockpiles accumulated during the first quarter of 2011. Inflation, which had surged to a 9 per cent peak during the crisis, declined gradually to 4 per cent in October. While the overall trend is encouraging, the crisis affected small- and medium-sized enterprises disproportionately, and unemployment remains a concern.

57. The Government has committed to tackling various reforms, including in the coffee, cocoa, electricity, judicial and public sectors, and in relation to the business climate and public governance, which should contribute to strengthening the economy and its growth potential. The World Bank provided budget support of $150 million and a grant of $50 million for an emergency youth employment and skills development programme. The International Monetary Fund approved an extended credit facility to support the Government's three-year programme for the period 2012-2014. It also reached an agreement with the Paris Club in November 2011 that led to a restructuring of its bilateral external debt, reducing debt service from July 2011 to July 2014 by $1.822 billion.

H. Regional aspects

58. In an effort to further strengthen subregional cooperation, President Ouattara undertook a number of visits in the subregion, including to Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Togo. On 18 November, Presidents Ouattara and Compaoré co-chaired a joint Council of Ministers meeting in Ouagadougou, during which the participants agreed on the construction of a highway and on the rehabilitation of the railroad between the two countries, in addition to the export of electricity from Côte d'Ivoire to Burkina Faso.

59. Regional leaders discussed security concerns on several occasions. In Monrovia, on 9 July, Prime Minister Soro met with the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to discuss border security challenges, followed by a meeting of the heads of the security forces of both countries on 17 August. During the Mano River Union summit on 17 July, the Presidents of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone agreed to intensify regional security cooperation, and called on ECOWAS to address challenges in the border area between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia.

60. An ECOWAS delegation conducted an evaluation visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 22 to 25 August to develop a road map to address post-conflict challenges. On 10 September, the Heads of State of ECOWAS member States Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Senegal reviewed the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

and Liberia during a mini-summit in Abuja and expressed serious concern about border instability.

61. At the request of the Secretary-General, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa has initiated discussions on how to support the development of a subregional strategy by ECOWAS to address the threat of cross-border movements of armed groups and weapons. In coordination with other United Nations presences in the subregion, recommendations have been developed on ways to take this project forward, and they were reviewed during a meeting of the heads of United Nations missions in West Africa on 28 November in Dakar.

62. Following a visit to Côte d'Ivoire from 25 to 30 July, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, in a communiqué dated 11 August, commended the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to re-establish security and the rule of law and promote national reconciliation, as well as its progress in implementing the unfinished aspects of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. From 5 to 12 November, another African Union delegation visited Côte d'Ivoire.

63. On 5 December, President Ouattara participated in a meeting of the Conseil de l'entente in Benin with the Presidents of Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo to discuss peace- and security-related issues in West Africa.

VII. Staff safety and security

64. The high incidence of crime, including acts of armed robbery, roadside banditry, home invasion, murder and carjacking, poses the greatest security threat to United Nations personnel and installations across the country. Three incidents of armed robbery targeting United Nations personnel were reported in Abidjan, and five break-ins to residences of United Nations staff members. On 16 September, three unidentified armed individuals abducted three UNOCI military observers in Abidjan who managed to escape.

VIII. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

Military component

65. As at 20 December, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 9,616 personnel, including 9,320 troops, 200 military observers and 96 staff officers against an authorized ceiling of 9,792 personnel. With regard to the reinforcement of 2,000 personnel initially authorized by Security Council resolution 1967 (2011), 1,827 military personnel have been deployed. 65 military posts were converted into individual police officer positions to accommodate some of the 205 additional police advisers within the overall authorized strength.

66. The UNOCI military component continues to play an important role in helping the national authorities to stabilize the security situation, with a particular focus on Abidjan and the west. The Mission's enhanced presence and assistance in those most volatile areas are critical for the Government to address security challenges, including along the border with Liberia, to protect the civilian population and to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons. UNOCI also

contributes to the provision of security for members of the Government and key political stakeholders, including members of the political opposition.

Police component

67. As at 20 December, the existing strength of the police component of UNOCI stood at 1,389 personnel composed of six formed police units comprising 995 officers and 394 individual police officers, against an authorized ceiling of 1,555 personnel. Of the 205 individual police officers authorized in resolution 2000 (2011), 65 are in the process of being selected to assist in building the capacity of the Ivorian law enforcement agencies in the areas of crowd control, community policing, judicial policing, criminal investigation, forensics, sexual- and gender-based violence, organized crime and border management.

68. UNOCI police are conducting joint patrols with the police, gendarmerie and FRCI as well as providing static security at key installations. UNOCI police continue to participate in human rights investigations, assist in weapons collections operations and provide support and advice to national authorities to contribute to the strengthening of the capacities of law enforcement institutions, including through co-location, mentoring and training.

69. As part of inter-mission cooperation arrangements, in addition to the arrangements described in paragraph 16, one infantry company and three formed police unit platoons from UNOCI reinforced UNMIL during the elections in Liberia, from 1 October to 30 November. The three armed helicopters which had been temporarily deployed from UNMIL to support UNOCI during the post-presidential election crisis, returned to Liberia on 4 October with a minor delay owing to adverse weather and technical difficulties.

IX. Observations

70. Considerable progress was made towards restoring normalcy in Côte d'Ivoire since the violent post-presidential election crisis earlier this year — an event that took a heavy toll on the country and significantly decimated national capacities. President Ouattara continued to focus on his vision for restoring peace and stability in the country and in revitalizing the economy. Progress is demonstrable: the security situation is slowly stabilizing, the economy is showing some resilience, legislative elections were held, and progress also was made in extending State authority. Those developments are significant and will have a positive impact on the lives of the Ivorian people. While committed to confronting the remaining challenges, President Ouattara and his Government have also made significant gestures towards reaching out to all political forces in Côte d'Ivoire in a spirit of reconciliation and dialogue and intensify engagement within the subregion.

71. As Côte d'Ivoire takes steps towards reclaiming its historic role as a pillar of stability and prosperity in the subregion, the country is still struggling to recover from the devastating crisis, and it cannot as yet address the above-mentioned challenges on its own. More time will be needed, and more support will be required from all Ivorian stakeholders as well as from Côte d'Ivoire's international and regional partners.

72. The successful holding of legislative elections on 11 December, the first since 2000, marked a major step forward in the restoration of constitutional order, more inclusive governance, and the completion of a key unfinished aspect of the peace process. I commend the people of Côte d'Ivoire and the political parties for their commitment to the democratic process and for exercising their right to vote in a generally calm and peaceful manner, as well as the Ivorian bodies responsible for organizing the elections. President Ouattara and his Government undertook steps to encourage all parties, including the former ruling party and other opposition parties, to participate in the elections. I was particularly encouraged by the fact that some candidates affiliated with the political opposition took part in the elections, in spite of the former ruling party's call for a boycott. I have noted the indication by President Ouattara that local elections are expected to take place in 2012. They will provide an important opportunity to further promote inclusiveness and diversity and encourage political and social pluralism.

73. I call on the people of Côte d'Ivoire and their leaders to maintain a calm political and security environment. I also urge them to respect the results of the legislative elections in a spirit of reconciliation and resolve disputes through the legally established mechanisms.

74. The inauguration of the National Assembly will complete the electoral cycle that has lasted over 10 years. It represents a unique opportunity for the people of Côte d'Ivoire to move away from the divisive politics of the past. I urge the Government to continue to reach out to engage in dialogue with the political opposition to create space for broad, inclusive political discourse where a wide range of political actors are able to voice their views and engage actively in shaping the future of the country. The future National Assembly has a role to play in national reconciliation and the consolidation of peace and stability. Strong and independent institutions are a cornerstone for sustainable peace, security and development.

75. Now that the legislative elections have taken place, it is important to focus on other pressing priorities: in particular, the reform of the security sector; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; consolidation of the security situation in Abidjan, the west and the border areas; and national reconciliation. Equally important — and essential for lasting peace and reconciliation — will be the need to address impunity and ensure accountability for gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by all parties. While I welcome measures already taken towards those ends, it is critical that the work of the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation become operational at the local level and yield concrete results that address the root causes of the conflict, foster social cohesion and promote the return of displaced persons. I also call upon the Government to ensure that serious and even-handed investigations are undertaken in all cases of abuse and violence and that all perpetrators, regardless of their political affiliation or camp, are brought to justice. UNOCI will continue to support the Government in addressing these key priorities. I remain concerned about the security situation, in particular in Abidjan and in western Côte d'Ivoire, where the presence of armed groups and large numbers of weapons as well as the continuing cross-border movement of armed groups and weapons risk destabilizing the entire subregion. I am, however, grateful to subregional leaders who are taking steps to address those concerns, and I would like to encourage ECOWAS to develop a subregional strategy to address these worrisome issues. The United Nations stands ready to actively support such an initiative.

76. A stable security environment will create the space necessary to make progress in other priority areas, including national reconciliation; reconstitution and reform of security and rule of law institutions; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; extension of State authority; promotion and protection of human rights; measures to address the root causes of the crisis and other outstanding aspects of the peace process; and promotion of economic recovery.

77. The reconstitution and reform of the security and rule of law institutions is critical for achieving the stabilization of the security situation and the establishment of lasting peace and stability. I appeal to the Ivorian authorities to take full advantage of the assistance offered by the international community, including UNOCI, to help to develop the urgently needed national framework for security sector reform and to take forward a new national programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants.

78. After years of crisis, the country needs to heal and look towards a future in which people can live together in harmony. Reconciliation is the responsibility of all Ivorians and is critical for consolidating peace. I therefore call upon the Ivorian authorities and people to take advantage of the opportunity to participate meaningfully in reconciliation initiatives at the national and community levels. I also appeal to the international community to support those efforts, including the work of the Commission on Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation.

79. I remain concerned about the continued reports of human rights violations taking place in Côte d'Ivoire. Such violations are unacceptable, and perpetrators from all sides should be held accountable. I welcome the series of judicial measures that the Government has taken to address human rights abuses committed in the country, including during the recent crisis. Violations of human rights should belong in Côte d'Ivoire's past, and not tarnish its vision for the future. I therefore emphasize the need for justice to be applied in an even-handed manner no matter who the perpetrator may be.

80. The transfer of former President Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court in The Hague marked an important development in the country. The Court is an independent judicial institution and has a mandate distinct and separate from that of the United Nations. I fully respect and support the Court and its work. I am confident, in the light of the statement by the Office of the Prosecutor of the Court, that independent and impartial investigations will continue and that further cases will be brought before the Court, irrespective of the political affiliation of the accused.

81. As outlined in my report of 24 June 2011 (S/2011/387), and pursuant to resolution 2000 (2011), UNOCI will continue to support the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in meeting the immediate challenges facing the country, as identified and requested by the Government. In that regard, I note that the additional military and police personnel and assets, including the temporary reinforcement from UNMIL, were critical in enabling UNOCI to implement its mandate in support of the stabilization of the security situation. I will keep this situation under review, and my report of 31 March 2012 will provide a detailed assessment of the situation on the ground as well as recommendations on possible adjustments vis-à-vis the Mission's strength and structure.

82. I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation for the dedicated service of Y. J. Choi, who served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire until the end of August 2011. I would like to express my gratitude to the new Special Representative, Albert Gerard Koenders, and to all UNOCI personnel for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire. I am also grateful to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, and his Special Representative in Abidjan, who continue to support the Government in addressing outstanding aspects of the peace process, as well as to ECOWAS and the African Union for their steadfast support. I would also like to thank all troop- and police-contributing countries that were part of inter-mission cooperation arrangements, including UNMIL; the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system; and multilateral and bilateral donors for their commitment and contributions.

Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 20 December 2011

	Military component				*Police component*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	***Total***	*Formed police units*	*Police*
Argentina	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bangladesh	14	10	2 159	**2 183**	357	1
Benin	7	12	420	**439**	—	54
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Brazil	4	3	—	**7**	—	—
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—	40
Cameroon	—	—	—	—	—	22
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	9
Central African Republic	—	—	—	—	—	15
Chad	3	1	—	**4**	—	23
China	6	—	—	**6**	—	—
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	—	36
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	—	—	—	30
Ecuador	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Egypt	—	1	175	**176**	—	2
El Salvador	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Ethiopia	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
France	—	6	—	**6**	—	12
Gambia	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Ghana	5	7	528	**540**	—	6
Guatemala	5	—	—	**5**	—	—
Guinea	1	—	—	**1**	—	—
India	9	—	—	**9**	—	—
Ireland	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Jordan	8	11	1 059	**1 078**	488	12
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	—	15
Malawi	3	2	853	**858**	—	—
Morocco	—	3	723	**726**	—	—
Namibia	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Nepal	3	1	—	**4**	—	—
Niger	7	3	931	**941**	—	44
Nigeria	6	1	63	**70**	—	10
Pakistan	12	10	1 374	**1 396**	150	—
Paraguay	7	2	—	**9**	—	—

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Police
Peru	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Philippines	3	3	—	**6**	—	—
Poland	4	—	—	**4**	—	—
Republic of Korea	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Republic of Moldova	4	—	—	**4**	—	—
Romania	6	—	—	**6**	—	—
Russian Federation	10	—	—	**10**	—	—
Rwanda	—	—	—	**—**	—	7
Senegal	13	6	518	**537**	—	10
Serbia	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Togo	7	8	517	**532**	—	3
Tunisia	7	2	—	**9**	—	—
Turkey	—	—	—	**—**	—	17
Uganda	5	1	—	**6**	—	—
Ukraine	—	—	—	**—**	—	4
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2	—	**3**	—	—
Uruguay	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Yemen	8	1	—	**9**	—	19
Zambia	2	—	—	**2**	—	—
Zimbabwe	3	—	—	**3**	—	—
Total	**200**	**96**	**9 320**	**9 616**	**995**	**394**

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